THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided to set up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has been asked to allot land, free of cost, at a suitable location, having necessary physical and social infrastructure, for this purpose. The State Government has informed the Ministry, that they are in the process of identifying suitable land for the purpose.

Astrology in universities

1362. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the universities where astrology is a subject in curriculum; and

(b) whether Government would consider to scrap astrology from curriculum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, a Scheme of setting up of Department of Jyotir Vigyan in Universities was introduced in the Ninth Plan period in the year 2000-01. A total of 20 Universities were selected under the Scheme.

However, this Scheme is not in operation during the Tenth Plan period.

(b) Does not arise.

Capability of higher educational institutions

1363. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the most pressing problem in the higher education sector is not the shortage in the number of institutions, but those already established are not capable of functioning as centres of higher learning;